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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE PRESIDENT



QUOTE Dear Chris:

I am interested in your observation about the general feeling at Geneva, to the effect that a Summit Conference some time this fall is inevitable. The existence of such a feeling must mean that our Allies are convinced that there will be sufficient progress at Geneva to justify such a meeting on the part of the Western Powers. Unless they do have this confidence in some progress, then they must be assuming that the West will surrender to pressure from the other side.

You and I have long ago agreed that we have no idea of being either belligerent or unnecessarily rigid. But we have stood and intend to stand on principle. Moreover, we have made it abundantly clear that we are ready to interpret progress at Geneva in a liberal manner. It would be most unfortunate if our associates should assume that regardless of the absence of progress, this Government will consent to attend a Summit Conference. For us this would be such an unacceptable retreat that it would virtually spell surrender. This we will not do. * * * * *

New

Drafted by:

The White House

7/15/59

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

Robert Murphy

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S/S Mr. Calhoun

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NEW SUBJECT. As a result of my press conference this morning, there was an assertion on the part of some press representatives that you and I were giving different answers to the same question, that of the possibility of bringing Bohlen to Washington. I had not previously read the transcript of your most recent press conference and so I answered a query put to me on the basis of the two discussions you and I had in my office during the past ten days or two weeks. Twice I brought up this subject and you said that there were no plans of any kind to bring Bohlen to Washington and that the matter was not now under discussion. It was in this sense that I answered.

A reporter then called attention to your press conference. I have since read the applicable excerpts. A careful reading shows that while you discussed this matter, you were not talking about any current plans or negotiations looking toward such a move, but on the contrary pointed out that Bohlen was so busy that we could not even consider his transfer now. However, since I did not know about the conversations that you said started some months ago, my answer was completely negative, and it was because of these different answers that the interest of the press was aroused.

I have had Mr. Hagerty explain the matter to the reporter who asked the question, and I doubt that any great damage has resulted. But I do regret that I had no inkling of the complete situation as described in your press conference. * * * * *

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I know that your Geneva task is wearisome but, as you say, there seems to be nothing to do but keep on plugging. All of us admire your performance.

With warm regard, as ever, DE UNQUOTE



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